

THE  
**WARNING  
SIGNS**  
OF  
**CHILDHOOD  
SPEECH  
DISORDER**



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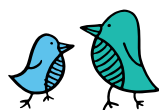
# ABOUT THIS CHECKLIST

Speaking and communicating freely is so important for your child's development. It affects his or her ability make friends and socialize, learn and succeed in school, and solve problems and understand the world around them.

Above all, communication is central to everything we want for our children: to grow up happy and healthy.

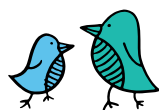
Children of different ages exhibit different warning signs, so **we've broken down this checklist by age group:**

- Under 18 months
- By 2 Years of Age
- By 3 Years of Age
- By 5 Years of Age
- 5-18 years old



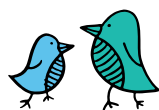
# CHILDREN UNDER 18 MONTHS

1. **Few sounds** (limited or no cooing, babbling). Children start to play with their voice from 4-7 months of age making various sounds (ahhh, ooo, dada, nana).
2. **Few or no first words.** (i.e. mama, dada). Children typically start saying words around 12 months of age.
3. **Not responding to their name.** This should occur by 12 months.
4. **No waving their hand to indicate hello/goodbye.** Children typically start to wave at about 8-9 months of age.
5. **No smiling or showing interest in interacting with others.** Children usually start to smile and notice others around them shortly after birth (approximately 1-2 months). As they continue to develop, they interact more with others around them and show pleasure by smiling and giggling.
6. **Saying less than 10 words.** Children usually have 10 to 50+ words that they say by 18 months.
7. **Difficulty understanding simple commands.** (i.e. come here, open the door, get your shoes)



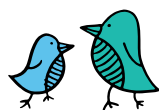
# BY 2 YEARS OF AGE

1. **Words are not easily understood by others.** Parents do not understand what their child is trying to say or parents need to “translate” what their child is saying to others.
2. **No short 2-3 word sentences** (i.e. “I see Daddy”, “I have Frozen”)
3. **Following simple directions is not observed** (i.e. Go get your shoes”)
4. **Less than 50% understandable.** People should understand at least half of what the child is saying



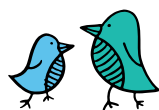
# BY 3 YEARS OF AGE

1. **The beginnings or endings off of words are left off.** By this age, children should not be leaving sounds off of words i.e. oap for soap, to/top.
2. **Does not want to play with others.** Children enjoy playing with other children their age with appropriate toys.
3. **Less than 75% understandable.** People should understand at least 75% of what they are saying.



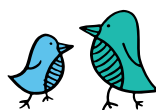
# BY 5 YEARS OF AGE

1. **The beginnings or endings off of words are left off.** By this age, children should not be leaving sounds off of words i.e. oap for soap, to/top.
2. **Does not want to play with others.** Children enjoy playing with other children their age with appropriate toys.
3. **Less than 75% understandable.** People should understand at least 75% of what they are saying.



# CHILDREN 5-18 YEARS OLD

1. **Difficulty rhyming words.** Children should be able to rhyme words (i.e. mop, top), segment words into syllables (i.e. ba-by). This is phonemic awareness which is a precursor for reading readiness and reading development.
2. **Cannot follow the teachers' directions.** (i.e. go to your seats and take out your math book.) The child may seem often confused in the class and have difficulty transitioning from one activity to another. Children in first grade should be able to follow the teachers lead.
3. **Trouble reading.** The child should have skills in sound letter correspondence, sounding out words and decoding sight words by first grade.
4. **Trouble writing.** The child should be able to write sentences, paragraphs and organizing their thoughts to write a story by second grade.
5. **Tough to make friends.** Children often can make new friends and enjoy engaging with them at school and outside of school. They know how to start conversations, maintain a topic of conversation and others enjoy being with them.
6. **Trouble explaining what they are thinking.** Children use language to express what they want to say to make their needs met. They also answer questions with a reasonable response time (1-2 seconds).
7. **Trouble coming up with the right words to say.** Children should be able to speak smoothly without having to think too much about what to say and what word to use.



# WHAT DO I DO IF MY CHILD EXHIBITS ANY OF THESE WARNING SIGNS?

If your child shows any of these warning signs, you should consult with a professional pediatric speech pathologist.

If you have concerns about your child's speech and language development, please feel free to contact us. We would be happy to provide you with a free consultation.

– *Sabrina Conway, M.A. CCC-SLP*

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